

December 4, 1964

**GREAT LAKES FISHERY COMMISSION  
APPROVES EXTENSION OF SEA LAMPREY CONTROLS**

The Great Lakes Fishery Commission, made up of three members each from Canada and the United States, has approved a program to complete sea lamprey control treatment of streams feeding into Lake Michigan and for preparations to extend it to Lake Huron tributaries.

The Commission ended a two-day interim meeting in Washington December 3. Donald L. McKernan, Chairman of the Commission and Director of the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, Department of the Interior, said lampreys in Lake Superior have been reduced by about 80 percent as a result of stream treatment with selective chemicals. He recommended that research agencies study the desirability of allowing a limited commercial lake trout fishery in Lake Superior in the near future.

Lake trout, prized by both sport and commercial fishermen were eliminated by sea lampreys in Lake Huron in the 1940's and in Lake Michigan in the 50's. The trout in Lake Superior had fallen to dangerously low levels when stream treatment to destroy young lampreys began in 1958.

Scientists reported a further decrease in lamprey attacks on lake trout in Lake Superior this fall, and also described a widespread resumption of spawning which had been negligible since 1959 because of the scarcity of mature trout.

Mr. McKernan said that although problems in the upper lakes are considerable, the Commission must direct more attention to fishery problems in Lakes Erie and Ontario. And he emphasized that scientists should continue to seek less expensive and more effective chemicals which kill the young lampreys, then dissipate rapidly in the water without harm to other organisms or contributing to water pollution.

It was also announced that Canada and the United States have <sup>each</sup> agreed to appoint an additional member to the Commission to better represent interests in the lower lakes.

The Great Lakes Fishery Commission was established by Canada and the United States in 1955 and is responsible for the joint program to control sea lamprey and for recommending other measures to improve commercial and sports fishing in the Great Lakes.

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